

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, October 1, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: CMS Awards Grants to More than 50 Senior Medicare Patrol Programs

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today announced the award of \$9 million in grants to help more than 50 Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) programs fight Medicare fraud.

The grants will provide additional funds to increase awareness of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries of health care fraud prevention, identification and reporting through expansion of SMP program capacity. Increased funding levels for states identified with high-fraud areas will support additional targeted strategies for collaboration, media outreach, and referrals. The Administration on Aging will administer these grants in partnership with CMS.

The SMP volunteers work in their communities to educate Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, family members, and caregivers about the importance of reviewing their Medicare notices to identify billing errors and potentially fraudulent activity. Program volunteers also encourage seniors to make inquiries to the SMP Program when such issues are identified, so the SMP projects can help ensure appropriate resolution or referral.

A list of the grants awarded to each SMP may be found at:
http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/SMP/doc/SMP_Grants_Awards.pdf

For more information on fraud prevention efforts, visit: <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/> or <http://www.cms.gov/FraudAbuseforConsumers/>

The press release on this announcement is attached and is available on the CMS website at: http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

If you have any questions about today's SMP grant announcement, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank you.